

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA

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Brownfields are abandoned or underutilized properties where redevelopment is hindered by real or perceived environmental contamination. Over the last twenty years, the greater Los Angeles region has experienced a sharp decline in its manufacturing and industrial base due to businesses relocating outside of the region. The result is that the County's urban areas are rife with brownfields, which create health and safety risks for residents.

Brownfields sit idle because of regulatory roadblocks and excessive requirements driven by the fear of endless litigation. With little available productive land in the urban core, businesses look elsewhere, pushing development further and further towards our outer boundaries, taking jobs with them and leaving the inner cities empty and underutilized. By one estimate, one acre of redeveloped brownfields preserve up to four-and-one-half acres of open space.

MOTION

Molina	_____
Yaroslavsky	_____
Knabe	_____
Antonovich	_____
Burke	_____

California is one of only two states in the nation that does not currently have a brownfields policy. In the absence of clear guidance from the State, the County needs to create its own policy, as several other city and counties have done, for guidance in developing and purchasing county land. A sound policy would enable the County to actively participate in redeveloping brownfields and revitalizing communities by creating jobs and housing and returning productive property to the tax rolls.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Administrative Office, the Department of Public Works, the Community Development Commission, County Counsel, and the Department of Health Services; to

1. Review the brownfield policies used by San Diego and San Francisco Counties and the City of Oakland; and
2. Develop a County brownfields policy and risk-based screening and assessment process and report back to the Board in three months. The resulting policy should expedite the assessment and cleanup process while safeguarding the public's health and minimizing our exposure to litigation.